

Herb Davis strives for success both on and off the court...



Page 4

Take a trip into South's past...

Pages 6-7

Follow the yellow brick road to South this month...



Page 8

# THE SABRES' BLADE

February 17, 1999

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXVI

## Withrow crowned Reverse Homecoming King



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

The 1999 Reverse Homecoming King Craig Withrow poses with second runner-up Montee Rogers and third runner-up Jason Edwards. The other members of the Reverse Homecoming Court were first runner-up Quavis Morgan, Michael Ballenger, Anthony Caruso, Zach DeLeo, Jay Lawrence, Josh LeQuire, Justin Long, Jesse Rademacher, and Marcus Walton.

Craig Withrow was crowned the 1999 Reverse Homecoming King on January 29 at the varsity basketball game against the Providence Panthers. The theme of the pep rally held earlier that afternoon was "The Prince of Egypt" and included a lyrical dance performance by Nicole Muse, a parody of the MTV show "The Cut," and a performance by South's new dance group, the Letterguys. Ms. Melanie Duncan presided as mistress of ceremonies.

## Senior Follies to be presented at end of February

By Megan McKnight  
Centerspread Editor

The 1999 Senior Follies will be presented Friday and Saturday, February 26-27, in the auditorium. Auditions were held in early February for both emcee positions and for individual skits. Tickets went on sale February 11, and will continue to be sold during all three B-day lunches for five dollars.

This year's theme is "Party Like It's 1999," a song released by "The Artist." The theme was determined through a vote taken by the senior class during homeroom. "Party Like It's 1999" won by a landslide over three other songs.

Several seniors are creating prospective designs for the backdrop, and ultimately, the decision will be made by the Senior Class Council.

Act I consists of skits by the National Honor Society and Beta Club, "Lords of Magic," Senior Women, Sarah Snyder, the Letter Girls, Meredith Perry, and the Key Club. Act II is comprised of skits by "The Seniors," the Dancers, Sabres Out to Serve (SOS), Senior Men, Interkeys, Bonnie Rich, Executive Council and Senior Council, Kelly Flaviani, and Cerah.

Nathan Morabito, Kyle Robinson, Bethany Sterling, and Nicole Meade were selected as the Senior Follies emcees.

Aside from graduation, Senior Follies is the most important project with which seniors are involved. All proceeds go toward the payment of graduation costs and the senior class gift.

## Lawsuit prompts school system to re-examine desegregation policies

By Andrew Buchert  
Editor

Despite thirty years of effort by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System to desegregate its schools, a recent lawsuit has prompted the system to examine and re-evaluate its desegregation programs. A 23-member citizens' committee has been established by school system Superintendent Dr. Eric Smith to review plans that could replace current desegregation policies. A federal court trial is scheduled to begin April 19 of this year.

Prior to 1970, Charlotte-Mecklenburg was operating a dual school system, in which there was one school system for black students and one school system for white students. In *Swann vs. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* the Supreme Court declared a dual school system unconstitutional. To remedy the situation, the Court ordered Charlotte-Mecklenburg to remove all discriminatory practices and become a unitary system.

For nearly thirty years the school system has used forced

busing to integrate its schools. In 1992 it introduced magnet schools, which admit students based on racially-balanced goals, and midpoint schools between black and white neighborhoods to reduce the busing load. But the question raised by the recent lawsuit is whether or not Charlotte-Mecklenburg is now a unitary system.

Bill Capacchione sued the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System in 1997 when his daughter, Cristina, was denied admission into a magnet school because she's not black. The Grant interveners, a group of parents who have also filed suit against the school sys-

tem, object to the racial-balance policies of the school system as well. A third party of parents have filed suit on behalf of the original Swann family, attesting that the school system has not

done enough to achieve its desegregation goals.

A number of expert witnesses were hired by the school system to evaluate certain elements of its current operation. They found that the standards

necessary to be declared unitary have not been met. "The position of the school board is that we are not yet unitary," said Dr. Smith. "There are still vestiges of the prior [dual] system that we have not dealt with effec-

tively," he said.

Smith said that, among other things, the quality of the teaching staff is not equal throughout the system. "The inequalities that we see are tied to the make-up of the student populations," he said. "Schools that are identifiably more African-American than white tend to have teachers with, for example, fewer years of experience and fewer advanced degrees."

"The Board [of Education] has every intention of becoming unitary," said Smith. "I think the real question is whether or not we're there now, and if we're not, then how do we get there," he said.

One of the initiatives brought to the forefront by this situation is that of neighborhood schools. Advocates emphasize the value of a strong connection between school and family and feel that proximity is necessary to ensure that school and family form a strong partnership.

However, there is also the

Continued Page 4  
See **DESEGREGATION**



### Index

Editorials.....	Page 2
Features.....	Page 3
Features.....	Page 4
Technology.....	Page 5
Centerspread.....	Pages 6-7
A & E.....	Page 8
Faces in the Crowd....	Page 9
Sports.....	Pages 10-11
Features.....	Page 12

## Diversity more important than convenience

Diversity is one of the prime benefits of desegregation

By Natalie Smith  
Staff Reporter

Since 1970, when Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools instituted a busing system designed to integrate blacks and whites in public schools, Charlotte has been nationally recognized as one of the pioneers of school desegregation. Nevertheless, the busing issue has been very controversial and has been contested in court on several occasions. The most recent suit against the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education was filed by several parents and is scheduled to go to trial on April 19 of this year.

These parents and others like them argue that consideration of race in the assignment of schools is unconstitutional. Most, however, are concerned about the inconveniences they and their children are forced to endure as a result of the assignments. Supporters of busing, though, do not support busing in and of itself. They support desegregation and busing just happens to be the means through which this is being accomplished at this time. Ultimately, inconvenient busing is a small price to pay for the long term benefits of desegregation on society as a whole.

Diversity is one of the prime benefits of desegregation. Many also argue that segregation has ended and that there is no longer a need for a busing program to help resolve a non-existent problem. Although schools are far more integrated than in the past, *de facto* segregation continues to affect many other avenues of life, for example, jobs and neighborhoods.

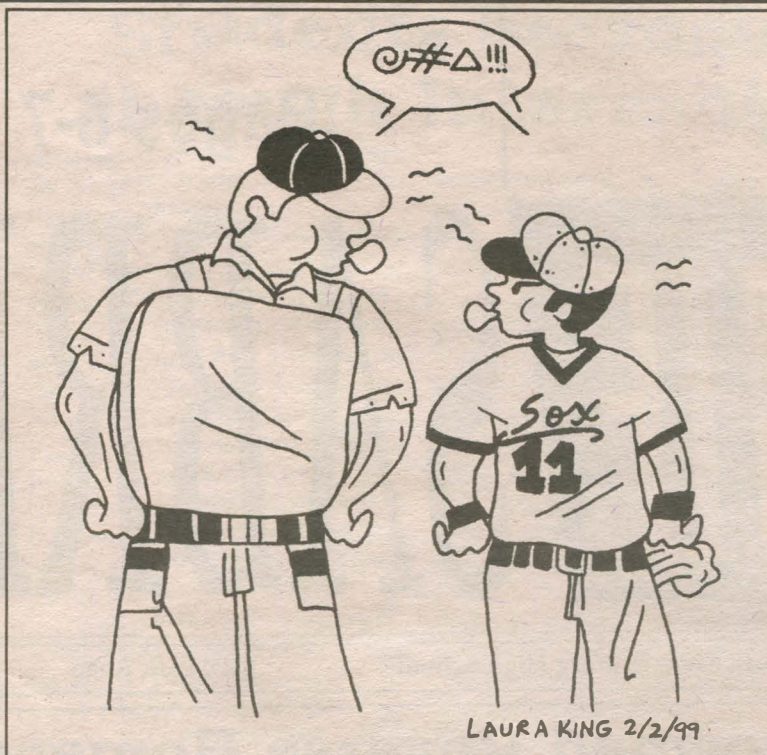
Many black parents feel that mandatory busing for the sake of desegregation should end because, in their opinions, going to a predominately black school

would be a good opportunity for their children to develop a deeper appreciation for their heritage. It is important for children of any race or color to be knowledgeable and appreciative of their cultural heritage. This should not, however, include the cessation of associations with people of other backgrounds, nor does it have to. In fact, to do so would be detrimental to a child's future ability to relate socially to people of different ethnicities.

Diversity does not simply mean simply racial diversity. It includes diversity of social status that would also be lacking if busing was ended and segregation, in effect, reinstated. This sector of diversity is just as important as racial acceptance. Although different in their natures, racial segregation and class segregation both yield prejudice. Integration can allay this.

The schools have proven to be one of the few places where children can get exposure to people of various backgrounds and heritages. This exposure has helped students to see beyond color and social status and to see people that are, in many ways, more like them than not. Integration does not simply benefit minorities. It is to the advantage of all [students] involved. Children of all races learn tolerance that will be of great value to them in later life. In twenty years, temporary inconveniences will not matter. The open-mindedness students learn as a result of integration can shape their mentalities for the rest of their lives.

Integration or busing is definitely not the cure-all for racism and other prejudices. However, it is the first step to instilling the values of tolerance and acceptance in future generations.



## Take pride in your game

Bad sportsmanship and greed tarnish the once glossy face of organized sports

By Laura King  
Staff Reporter

Organized sports are often contaminated by bad sportsmanship and greed. They are blemished by a bulk of participants who lack the character needed to respect their opponents and teammates, themselves, and the game.

Society has always glorified the great athletes; the guy who scores the winning goal in sudden-death overtime, or the quarterback who nails a game-winning touchdown pass in the homecoming game. Society teaches its people to look up to professional athletes with multi-million dollar contracts and endless endorsements. Five-year-olds are mesmerized by the athletic stars whose images constantly appear on the television screen. However, we tend to overlook the less obvious achievers, the ones who help their opponents up when they knock them down, or run over to the sidelines to tell their teammates "good job" when they are being taken out of the game. Unfortunately, these select few are not rewarded with rich contracts merely for their strong character, nor are they hailed by the public as great athletes. These athletes swallow their pride for their accomplishments and are silent; only the superstars have "earned" the right to bask in glory.

Regardless of statistics or contract value, the real achievers are those athletes who play for the love of the game and play with character. One such performer is twenty-two-year-old Mike Petke of Major League Soccer. He is obviously not using soccer as a get-rich-quick scheme; Mike plays for the league's bare minimum wage of \$24,000 a year. While some sports stars own a garage full of sleek cars and houses scattered all over the globe, Mike drives a sputtering 1988 Nissan, and he sleeps on his grandmother's couch because he cannot yet afford an apartment due to the high cost of living in New York City. In sharp contrast, the NBA

was recently inactive because players already raking in fifteen million dollars a year were still not satisfied. This is not to say that the stereotype about all rich athletes lacking character is true; there are exceptions in any case. It simply means that society repeatedly fails to realize and give credit to those athletes with a quiet existence.

Bad sportsmanship has a huge presence in organized sports. Too many players compete with a visible hatred for their opponent; in fact, some coaches even go so far as to actually encourage their team to play dirty. Verbal and physical scufflings with opponents and referees are not the extent of bad sportsmanship. Sadly, many players cannot conduct themselves well enough to keep from fighting among each other when they are frustrated. Bad sportsmanship is a result of weak character and a lack of respect in general. Last fall, Fred Lane of the Carolina Panthers was suspended for one game because of an unnecessary demonstration after he scored a touchdown. In addition, this past fall one of my own teammates was suspended for bad sportsmanship in a tournament. In response to a questionable call, she hit an opponent in the mouth with her fist. Negative displays of character like these interrupt the flow of the game and are unfortunate. However, weak character is a problem that originates within the individual athlete, and therefore cannot be solved without the willingness of the guilty athletes themselves.

Bad sportsmanship and greed tarnish the once glossy face of organized sports. The problems reside in athletes who have been misguided by society and by their hearts. The way they carry themselves when they are competing really says a lot about their strength of character and who they are. Regardless of what the printed statistics may say, it takes considerably more talent to play with pride and exhibit respect than it does to score the winning touchdown.

## Quick Take on Opinions

Student rights versus school rights

In complying to its policy involving monthly, random searches of classrooms using metal detectors, the school system is acting within its rights and in reasonable judgment. *In loco parentis* allows schools to have the powers over students that parents have over their children. Since parents have the ability to search their children and their belongings at any time, and parents are absent during the school day, the school assumes all of these powers and can search students with only a "reasonable suspicion."

The school system is trying to protect the lives of and provide a safe learning environment for all students. For the past two years there have been too many instances in which guns, knives, and other weapons have been brought into schools in the system.

Nick Kuklinski

The Eagle

East Mecklenburg High  
Charlotte, NC

Stereotyping teenagers has harsh effects

The idea that teenagers are stereotyped as rude and troublesome individuals could be exactly why they tend to act immaturely. After all, there are millions of books written for parents on how to raise a teen, how to deal with problems from your teenager, and what to expect from a teenager. It's almost as if parents are getting prepared for battle just to cope with their child.

A teenager might stroll into an expensive jewelry store simply to gaze at the treasures but unfortunately will feel the clerk watching his every move for fear he'll try to steal something.

Some teens might take advantage of the fact that they are expected to be bad, and they may use it as an excuse to rebel.

Anna Munoz

The Hoofprint

Myers Park High School  
Charlotte, NC

Cameras change student life

Cameras are common in prisons and grocery stores, but should not be common in schools. However, by the year 2000, every middle and high school in Charlotte-Mecklenburg will have cameras. Charlotte-Mecklenburg's ill-fated attempt at innovation has created a sense of mistrust and even heightened tensions between students and faculty. It seems the fewest numbers of student problems can lead to an entire student body being treated like criminals. Does it somehow remind you of a prison?

Harold Pride

The Echo

David W. Butler High School  
Matthews, NC

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# Celebrating Black History

A look at Black Americans who have shaped American history and literature

By Natalie Smith  
Staff Reporter

February is Black History Month, a time for all to examine and reflect on the history and contributions of black Americans. Literature, science, entertainment, education, mathematics, sports, music, sociology, and politics have all been influenced by blacks in some way. More often than not, these outstanding accomplishments were made amidst unfavorable social conditions and circumstances. Yet, these individuals persevered and the result was the contribution of invaluable aspects of American culture. In the process, these extraordinary black Americans established themselves in greatness.

Many black writers have produced poetry and prose that are considered great American literature. Gwendolyn Brooks was the first black to win a Pulitzer Prize for her collection of poems, *Annie Allen*. Alex Haley's *Roots* opened the eyes of millions to the horrors of slavery. Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Claude McKay,

Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Jean Toomer were all pillars to the Harlem Renaissance and their works continue to be the voice of the African-American people.

Blacks have also proven to be some of the most brilliant inventors, scientists, and medical professionals. George Washington Carver studied systematic botany and developed hundreds of methods for the practical industrial use of peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes. Benjamin Banneker was an astronomer and mathematician. We owe also to black scientists the traffic light, the electric pencil sharpener, and the first heart transplant.

Throughout history, many African-Americans have made their contributions to society through education. Booker T. Washington committed himself to teaching blacks about trades and agriculture and eventually established the Tuskegee Institute. Mary McLeod Bethune also established the first black college for girls.

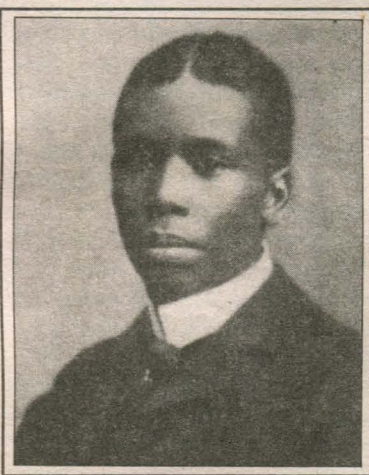
Politics has not been immune from the impact of African-

Americans. Thurgood Marshall was the first black to hold a seat as a Supreme Court justice. Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American to be a member of the House of Representatives.

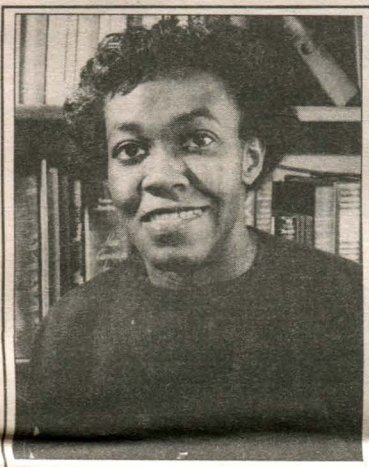
The way for many of these accomplishments was paved by activists who spoke out and took action against injustice and thus, perpetuated the success of their predecessors. Besides the obvious examples of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth, there were countless others who acted as catalysts of social change.

Black History Month should not be a celebration by only black Americans. It should be the concern of all Americans because black history is not just the history of African-Americans. It is American history and without the contributions of blacks, America would not be what it is today.

Sabres' Blade reporters Jessica Ambrose and Jennifer Samuels also contributed to this article.



Paul Laurence Dunbar



Gwendolyn Brooks



Jean Toomer



Countee Cullen



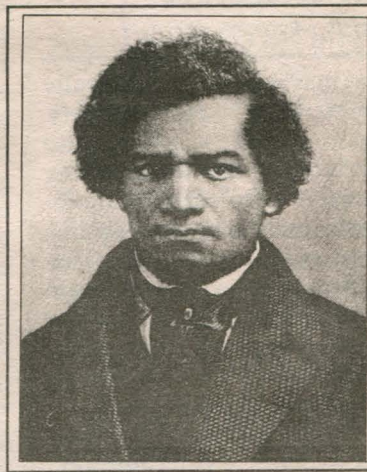
Langston Hughes



Margaret Walker



Ralph Ellison



Frederick Douglass

## I, Too By Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America  
I am the darker brother.  
They send me to eat in the kitchen  
When company comes,  
But I laugh,  
And eat well,  
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.  
Nobody'll dare  
Say to me,  
"Eat in the kitchen,"  
Then.

Besides,  
They'll see how beautiful I am  
And be ashamed--

I, too, am America

"The music [the blues style music] is slow, often mournful, yet syncopated, with a kind of marching bass behind it that seems to say, 'In spite of fate, bad luck, these blues themselves, I'm going on! I'm going to get there!'"

-Langston Hughes

"My men and my race are the inspiration of my work. I try to catch the character and mood and feeling of my people. The characteristic, melancholic music of my race has been forged from the very white heat of our sorrow and from our gropings."

-Duke Ellington

"If there is no struggle there is no progress.... This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle.... Men may not get all they pay for in this world, but they must certainly pay for all they get."

-Frederick Douglass

# Teacher Spotlight: Herb Davis's competitive drive goes beyond the basketball court

By Andrew Buchert  
Editor

As head coach of the men's varsity basketball team for fourteen years, South Meck Athletic Director Herb Davis vividly remembers the 1992-1993 state basketball championship game, played in the Dean Smith Center at Chapel Hill. South came within one point of winning the game against South View High School and their star player, Jeff Capel. Capel went on to play basketball at Duke University. "Jeff Capel made a basket in the last ten seconds, and they won the championship," said Davis.

Now in his twenty-third year on the faculty at South, Davis has become a familiar face around campus and at athletic events. He was coach of the men's junior varsity basketball team for seven years, the head coach of the men's varsity basketball team for fourteen years, and in 1997 he was promoted to the position of Athletic Director. He also teaches regular and advanced U.S. History classes. "Working with young people is more important to me than just winning basketball games," he said.

In 1965, Davis graduated from South as one of only five African-American students in his class. His younger brother, Walter Davis, also graduated from South and attended UNC Chapel Hill on a basketball scholarship. After graduating from Chapel Hill, Walter Davis was the fifth player chosen in the 1977 NBA Draft, and he was the 1977-78 Rookie of the Year. Walter Davis ended his playing career in 1992, and currently works in public relations for the Denver Nuggets.

During his time as basketball head coach, Herb Davis had several players who received

scholarships to play college basketball. However, the players that have actually gone on to play professionally in the NBA are few and far between. "It's very rare that you'll get a Bobby Jones or a Walter Davis," he said. One of his players did make it to the NFL. Roman Pheiffer, who plays football for the St. Louis Rams, played both football and basketball at South.

When he was promoted to athletic director, Davis thought that he would miss coaching. However, he discovered that he enjoyed the game more when he could just watch. "All the time that I coached, instead of just simply watching the [college or NBA] game, I was analyzing what the coach was doing and looking for a play that I could show my guys," he said. "But now, I can enjoy a basketball game."

Davis describes himself as a competitive personality. "I've found that what has replaced that drive to compete in coaching is the drive to try to raise enough money so that all the

coaches can get the things that they need," he said.

Only in his second year as athletic director, Davis has already accomplished several main goals for the athletic department. With the help of the Athletic Booster Club, Davis was able to purchase a new, eight thousand dollar wrestling mat for the wrestling team this year. "We're going to use it for the conference tournament, and

were supposed to finish the seating on what is now the away side and make that the home side," he said.

South has outgrown the gym as well. Its capacity of less than one thousand spectators falls well-short of the twenty-five-hundred spectator capacity necessary to hold state playoff games. "The goal is to improve the athletic department for the kids," said Davis. "I want what

is best for them."

One thing that Davis would love to see is an increase in the attendance at athletic events. A West Charlotte or Independence football game could net fifty thousand dollars in game receipts, whereas a South football game averages about eight thousand dollars. "I don't know why it's like this in the South community, but kids do not come to athletic events," he said. "It would be the ultimate accomplishment for me to figure out some way to get kids to come to the games."

The athletic department has tried some tactics to attract larger crowds, such as free-throw shooting contests at basketball games. "But you shouldn't have to have gimmicks for kids to come," said Davis. "They should want to come because this is their school and the players need their support," he said.

Davis enjoys playing basketball in his free time several days each week. In fact, this year is the first time in five years that he is on an organized team. When he isn't playing basketball he's reading. "I love reading U.S. history books," he said.

In the future, Davis would like to take an assistant coaching position with a small college basketball team "because I think I could probably be the greatest assistant anybody ever had," he said. But if that doesn't work out, then he plans to just relax "playing golf, maybe traveling a little, and reading," said Davis.

However, Davis isn't pursuing that coaching position just yet. With a total of thirty years of teaching, he plans to stay around a little longer. "Every year that I've taught has been enjoyable," said Davis. "The kids are fun, and they keep me young."



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Davis has been teaching at South for twenty-three years.

## School system re-examines desegregation policies

DESEGREGATION  
Continued from Page 1

value that diversity is critically important in today's society. Proponents of neighborhood schools argue that the best way to learn how to coexist in a diverse country is to grow up in a diverse environment. They say that because housing patterns in Charlotte-Mecklenburg are not very diverse, a return to neighborhood schools would constitute a return to segregation.

There are also simply issues of the logistics of neighborhood schools. Neither schools in the inner city nor schools in the outer suburbs would have enough seating capacity.

One of Smith's concerns is that people are generally happy at the school to which they are currently assigned. However, this court case could result in significant changes to current pupil assignments. "I'm not inundated with people saying that they're terribly dissatisfied with their school," he said.

Smith said that in developing any solution, the school system must certainly keep an eye on past inequalities. However, he feels that it is very important that they don't let that be the singular focus. "It's important as a community that we take a great deal of time looking at the future rather than looking at the past," he said. "What we're doing at this point in time is really building a school system for tomorrow's children."

"A bedrock value of this community is that we expect all children to have access to quality programs, quality schools, quality teachers, and for all students to be successful academically," said Smith. "It's critical how you deal with this issue. We need people to be thoughtful, people to be wise, people who understand that there are different points of view, both being very valid," he said.

Sabres' Blade reporter Jessica Ambrose contributed to this article.



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## Drivers' Education donates computer lab to Math Department

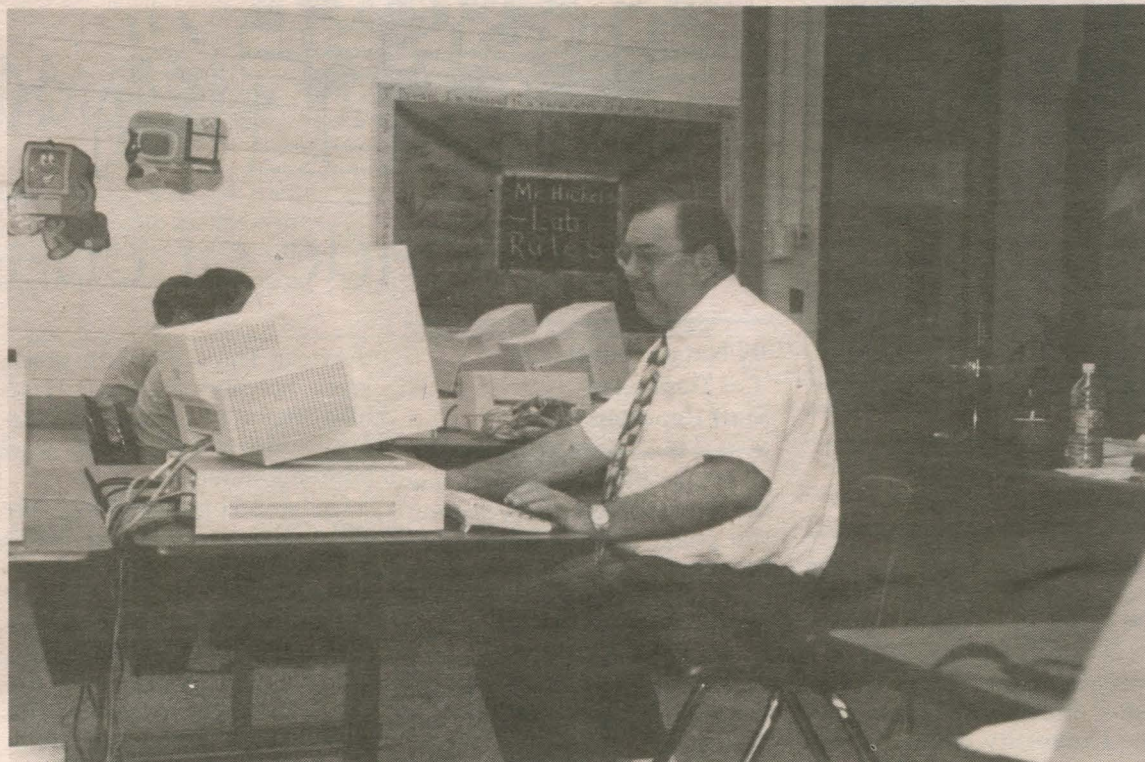
New computers to be used by AP Computer Science and AP Calculus classes, as well as Drivers' Education students

By Andrew Buchert  
Editor

One of the newest additions to South Meck's Math Department this year is the computer lab in D-Building featuring thirty 166 megahertz IBM computers that were just purchased at the beginning of this school year. However, when all is said and done, the computer lab will be used not only by math classes, but also by science classes and after school by the Drivers' Education classes.

The computers are networked and loaded with software for various applications. They have Netscape Navigator for browsing the internet, Microsoft Visual C++ programming software for the AP Computer Science classes, math programs that can be used by classes from Algebra I to AP Calculus and AP Statistics, and drivers education software that can be used once the teachers have been trained on the computers. The Science Department is planning to add their own software. "Basically, they're [the computers] capable of doing pretty much anything that we want to do with them," said Brady Hickel, Chairman of the Math Department and Director of the Computer Lab.

The lab was actually donated to South by the Drivers' Education Department of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Several years ago, the head of that department allocated enough funds to install



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Brady Hickel's AP Computer Science classes utilize the D-Building computer lab.

drivers' education computer labs in select high schools, including South. "We have purchased through [South Meck principal] Dr. Knox about \$12,000 worth of additional software," said Hickel. "He [Knox] has been very generous in spending money to get the lab up and running," he said.

Currently, the lab is only being used by Hickel's AP Computer Science classes. Students in the class learn to do actual computer programming, although they have a wide variety of individual programming

knowledge and skills. "Some of the students can write programs at a much higher level than I and most of the teachers in this school can program," said Hickel.

Hickel would like to see the AP Calculus classes use the lab, but he has had a difficult time trying to work out a schedule for the various classes to get into the lab. One of the problems is that his AP Computer Science classes are scheduled at the same time as the AP Calculus classes. "Next year we'll have somebody using the lab every pe-

riod," he said.

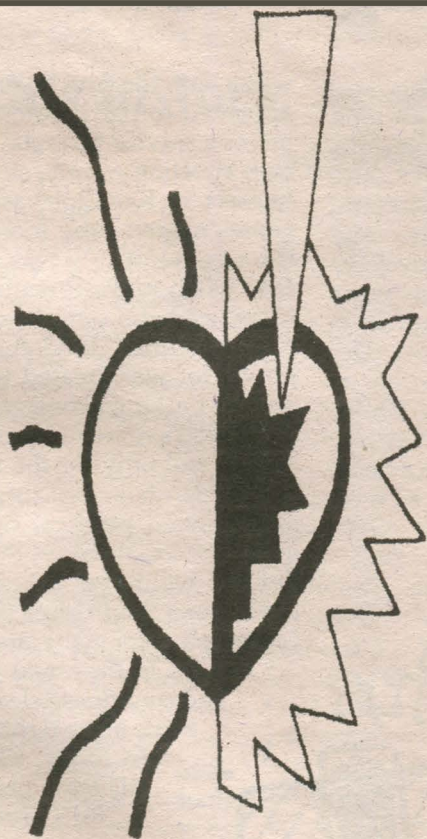
The Drivers' Education Department plans to eventually begin using the lab after school. The students will actually go to the computer lab and use the computers to learn the written part of the class, such as the laws and rules of driving. The computers will also have simulation software to teach the students driving skills. "We're not sure when the drivers' education classes will begin using the lab," said Hickel, "but right now none of the teachers have been trained yet."

Commander French Harvey of the NJROTC is the technology director for South Meck and the new lab in D-Building. Harvey and Hickel are in charge of the lab, making sure that everything is up and running, ensuring that any problems with the computers are properly corrected, and overseeing the general maintenance and scheduling of the lab.

Previous to last summer, Hickel had not had any programming classes since 1982. When he learned last spring that he would be teaching AP Computer Science, he enrolled in a C++ programming class at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) over the summer. He also attended the AP Computer Science training in Atlanta. "I've done a lot of studying in the books and have worked hard to try and stay ahead of the students," said Hickel.

Hickel feels that a course in C++ programming is valuable because, among other things, many companies are switching from other languages to C++. AP Computer Science students can take more advanced programming courses in college. "Students with a background in computer programming can pretty much name their price in the job market," he said.

"Everything's becoming so computer-centered that every opportunity you get to learn more about the computer is going to make life a lot easier for you," said Hickel.



The Shelter is a division of  
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A United Way Member Agency

**D**ating violence. It may not be something you've heard a lot about. Young people often don't tell their friends that their boyfriend hits them or that he doesn't want them talking to anyone else. Some think that jealousy, possessiveness and even violence are signs of love. They're not.

**Fact:** One in eight high school students and one in five college students will experience some form of relationship violence before graduation. Most are young women.

The Shelter for Battered Women's teen theatre troupe, Heart To Heart, works with young people, educating them about the realities and subtleties of dating violence. If you or someone you know is in a violent relationship, get help.

Heart To Heart...let's talk about it!

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Champions  
AAAA  
Girls' Tennis  
1978

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Boys' Tennis  
1980

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Softball  
1980

## Teacher Mystery



By Megan McKnight  
Centerspread Editor

This popular teacher has been teaching at South since the late 1960's. He grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, and is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Appalachian State University where he majored in psychology. He says what he remembers most about South is the parking lot in the 1960's when it was filled with MGB's and Austin Healy's. He also recalls the time when seniors got out at 10:30 every day. This psychology and sociology teacher is famous for his stories about the ghost of South Meck and asteroid hits. Whether it is the movie "Acid" or taking "side trips", this teacher is sure to remain in South's Hall of Fame for good. Still confused? Please see page 5 for the answer.



## Go back A look into The decade of change - '60's

By Natalie Smith and  
Cat Traphagan  
Staff Reporters

It was the decade that saw the assassination of a president, the peak of the Civil Rights Movement, and the emergence of a generation of rebellious youth. Another historic event in the 60's was the opening of South Mecklenburg High School under Principal Hal Edmisten.

In 1960, when Park Road was only two lanes, South opened its doors for students from seventh through twelfth grade. The fountain in the courtyard was the only landscaping besides the grass and cows that adorned the countryside surrounding South.

Seniors still ruled the school, and the youngest at South still felt the hierarchy of grade levels. There was hazing of lower classmen which included hanging freshmen and sophomores from the flagpole by their un-

derwear. Throughout the grade levels, however, there was a running theme of cardigan sweaters, winged eyeglasses and bouffant hairstyles.

Clubs and organizations were still a large part of life at South in the 60's. The Thespian Club, a dramatic group, was formed in 1964. The Teen Tones was one of South's female choir groups and its counterpart was the South Men choir group. The Good Books Club met on a regular basis to discuss literature. There was also a Literary Society. Sabres Out to Serve was established in 1968, and the Key Club gave back to the community by helping with the NC Tuberculosis Association and adopting an orphan. The headlines in the *Southern Accent*, South's newspaper, often told of the activities of many of these groups.

Student life at South in the 60's also featured many pageants, dances and sports activities. There were Mr. and Miss

South, King and Queen of Hearts and Miss Hi Miss, to name a few. Even thirty years ago, students at South felt the stress of final exams and celebrated their completion with an Exam Jam. Students filled the stands during football games and additional support of the team was offered by the Sabrettes, South's cheerleading squad. Those who couldn't make it to the game could tune in to South's campus radio station.

The legacy of South Meck was just beginning to develop in the 1960's, and many of the traditions and activities established in that decade are some of the very things that make South what it is today.



## Fast times at South Meck High - '80's

By Nicole Ewing and  
Megan McKnight  
Centerspread Editors

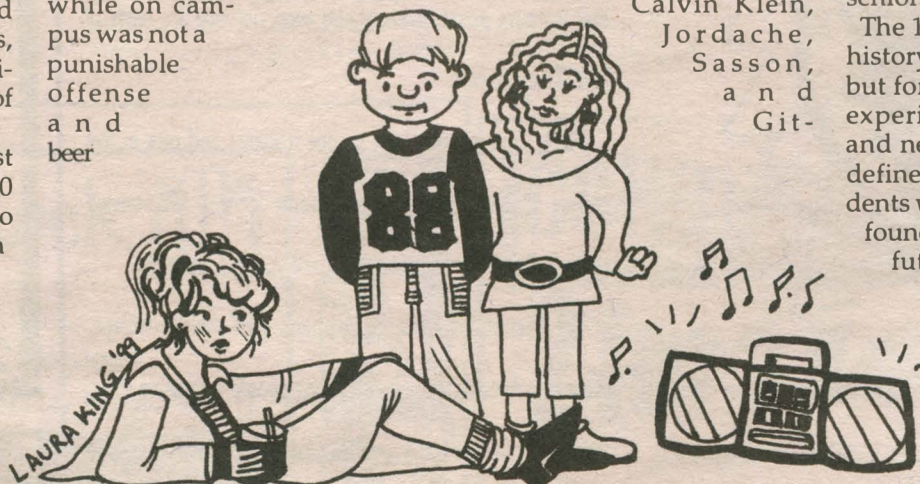
Did you know that South used to have more dances than just prom? Interact and Octagon were all male clubs? Key Club actually did many service projects? And South's address was 8900 Park Road, Pineville, NC 28134? Much has changed here at South since the 1980's, but these students laid a positive foundation for the future of South.

"A student's life was not just classes," as stated in the 1980 yearbook. The 80's proved to be a diverse decade filled with wild fashion, fun, and political turmoil. The hostage crisis of 1980 opened the eyes of many South students to a world beyond their own school. They supported the homecoming of the soldiers by painting the rock and showing patriotism. This is not the only way in which South students showed their spirit. Homecoming week was marked by a creative theme in

which the majority of students participated. One of the more popular events was the bonfire where students rallied support for their team.

If you are caught smoking or drinking at school now, the typical punishment is an automatic suspension. However, in the '80's, smoking while on campus was not a punishable offense and beer

this world. Some of the most popular styles were high tops, cons, denim jackets, Guess jeans, CB jackets, bean shoes, and brand names. Big hair and bright makeup were the signature styles of many teenagers. What you wore was not as important as who made it. Designers such as Calvin Klein, Jordache, Sasson, and Git-



cans were not an uncommon sight at school. The cans were not put to waste; South also began recycling programs in the 1980's.

The fashion was often out of

and were all the rage.

Students continued to be involved at South through the many clubs we had. Whether you wanted to be a teacher or a bus driver, there

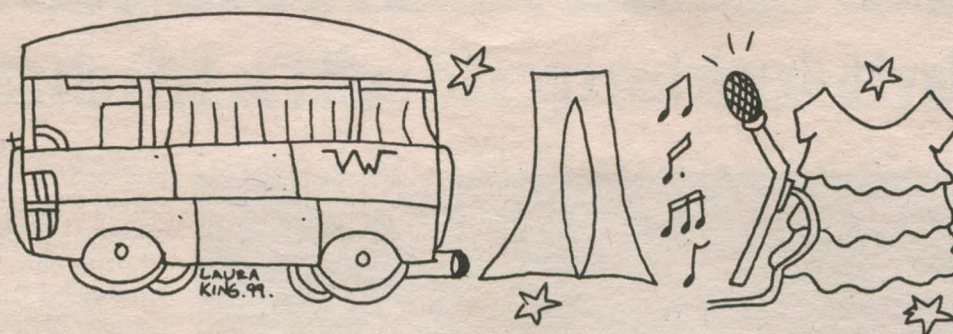
was a club for you. Every club appeared to participate in numerous service projects. Interclub sporting events, such as Interact vs. Key Club basketball games helped raise money for the community. It was also in 1985 when students realized seniors needed a senior patio. It was not until 1987 that the gravel lot was created to give seniors parking privileges.

The 1980's marked a period of history not only for the world, but for South as well. Students experienced political turmoil and new social values that redefined what high school students were. South Meck laid the foundation for many students' futures in the real world and continues to lead students in the right direction today. We will all remember the '80's for the

hair-sprayed, bubble-gum pink, rock and roll way of life. To the teenagers who lived out their high school years in the 80's, this decade was more than the trends, it was the events that they will remember.

# in time

## South's past



### \*A trip into the disco era - '70's\*

By Jennifer Samuels and  
Larisa Yasinovskaya  
Staff Reporters

To be a teenager in the seventies was exciting. Free love, drugs, and political protests characterized the era. The Vietnam war was on everyone's mind, and a president resigned for the first time ever. Big hair, psychedelic colors, and bell bottoms were prevalent in fashion. South Mecklenburg was in its second decade of existence, and student life was at its peak.

During the seventies South was very different from what it is now. Multiple dances were held every year. The first dance that South ever had was the Barnyard Stomp in 1972, a homecoming dance featuring a band from Atlanta. Dances soon became a regular occurrence.

Some of the other activities at South that are no longer in existence included the Monogram Club, an athletic service club, and the Bus Driver Club, where students got the chance to drive their peers to school. Other exhilarating clubs in place at the time included the Hangliding and Skiing Clubs dedicated to the pursuit of those extreme sports, and even a yoga class.

The sports played at South during the seventies were similar to the 90's, but the energy

and enthusiasm behind them was at a high. Pep rallies were attended by all and Sabre pride ran rampant. Another extension

solete and "microwave-looking" computers were becoming more common. South also went with the flow with its own ra-

mous comedienne and actress Carol Burnett. Not to worry, though, because in the age of emerging political correctness, South had a Mr. South along with a Miss South. During Christmas Interkeys were in charge of putting up the Christmas decorations, and to keep up the holiday spirit, the Key Club adopted an orphan.

The seventies left many milestones; protests which set discipline standards, bell bottoms which we still wear, but most notably the upsurge of technology which continues to grow today.



of this school spirit were sports matches played by rival clubs such as a soccer match between Interkeys and SOS, and a football game between the Sabres' Blade and Somecka. SOS and the Sabres' Blade were the champions of their respective matches.

Riding the wave of new technology in the seventies, typewriters were becoming ob-

solete. The students enjoyed the disco sounds coming from the radio station, as well as from the cafeteria jukeboxes.

In the age of women's liberation, South furthered the cause by having several beauty pageants. The Senior Beauties were elected by their peers. The class beauties, however, were chosen in a pageant, and in 1973 they were judged by the fa-

## Teacher Mystery



By Nicole Ewing  
Business Manager

Formerly Evelyn Underwood, this teacher mystery has been teaching math at South for 30 years. She first came to South in 1968 after starting her teaching career in Jacksonville, Florida. She attended UNC-Chapel Hill and is a true Tarheel Fan, never missing a home football game. When asked about her most vivid memory while at South, she recalls the riots after South was first integrated. Through all of this chaos, she continued with her lessons, which proves her dedication to educating students.

Besides teaching Pre-Calculus and Calculus AP, she is also advisor of ICC, and often has to be at several meetings at the same time. Her tests may be the most feared exams at this school, but if a student gets bored with variables and numbers, they can always stare at her entertaining screen savers. Got a clue? Find the answer on page 5.

## South's history, as seen through the eyes of our teachers

Mrs. Russo in 1989

"When I first came in 1989, it was the first year that Providence was open and South lost about a 1000 students. We were not overcrowded, there were no mobile units and only 1400 students. Every teacher had room! Back then, A-building hadn't been thought about; it was part of the parking lot, and Park Road was only two lanes."

Mrs. Hoffman in the '70's

"Back in the early '70's streaking became very popular. One year, in 1973 or '74, a student from South went over to Myers Park High School and streaked the campus as a joke. A small group of Myers Park students decided they would retaliate by streaking across South's campus. They arrived in a small Volkswagen in the bus parking lot and got out with clothes in hand. We could see them out the window as they ran stark naked behind C-building. One kid dropped his underwear and didn't know whether to

keep running to avoid being caught or to go back and get it. We were shocked, but it was also very funny. Needless to say, we couldn't continue with the rest of the class."

Mr. Derr in the '60's

"One of the things I remember about my early teaching years at South is the unspoken honor code followed by all of the students. You could leave anything, such as a jacket or purse, in the room, and you could always count on it to still be there when you came back. You always knew your personal possessions were safe even when they were not under your watchful eye; the students could usually trust their classmates."

Mr. Machado in the '80's

"My greatest memory of South was when I used to bring my bird-dog to school. I carried my gun in my car and would take it and my dog across the street to go hunting after school."

Mrs. Farrar in the '80's

"The thing remembered most about me is the time when my slip fell off while I was teaching. I was standing in front of the class and I felt something around my ankles. I walked back behind my desk and kicked it under it and continued teaching. Nobody noticed until I let it slip to Mr. Wells who let it out during a faculty meeting."

Mr. Schultz in the '80's

"Several years ago, before the big wooden fence in the teachers parking lot, I had an occasion to chase one of South's brilliant smokers off campus. They ran over hills, through apartments, down the sidewalk, and through the Harris Teeter parking lot. The end of the chase came when the young man ran around Quail Corners shopping center, ran up a steep hill, stopped, sat down, put his head between his legs, and threw up his lunch. I smiled."

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Boys' Tennis  
1981

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Football  
1981

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Girls' Tennis  
1981

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Softball  
1983

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Girls' Tennis  
1985

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Women's  
Swimming  
1985

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Football  
1986

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Baseball  
1989

State  
Champions  
AAAA  
Men's  
Swimming  
1989

## Follow the Yellow Brick Road...

This month it leads to South's auditorium

By Jennifer Samuels  
Staff Reporter

The musical *The Wizard of Oz* was presented by the South Mecklenburg Performing and Visual Arts departments February 11-13. The production marks the first time a mainstage musical has been at South since 1996's highly successful performance of *Oklahoma!*.

For those who may not know the story of *The Wizard of Oz*, the main character, Dorothy, is blown in a tornado from her native Kansas to the magical Land of Oz. Dorothy is told to travel to the Emerald City to get assistance in going home from the great Wizard. On her way she meets Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion. The story is a timeless classic, perfect for the whole family.

Although not quite a cast of thousands, South's version of *The Wizard of Oz* utilized many cast and crew members. The director was Deb Curl, South's veteran drama teacher. A unique feature of the production was a pit orchestra instead of taped music. Coordinating live musicians with live actors was a challenge well met by the talented students who made up the orchestra and cast.

Senior Bethany Sterling



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

**Bethany Sterling and Becca Williamson star in the lead roles of Dorothy and Glenda.**

starred in the lead role of Dorothy. Also in the cast as principal characters were Nicole Meade, Sean Sears, Sarah Snyder, Adam Shields, and Laura Noethiger. However, these were not the only people involved with the on-stage work. A chorus consisting of about twenty South students

provided background singing and characters, including the Munchkins and Ozians (people from Oz). The ten "mini" Munchkins were elementary-age friends and family members of the cast and crew.

The orchestra was made up of some of the best students involved in South Meck's bands

and orchestras. Band Director David Ragsdale was in charge of rehearsing the orchestra, and Chorus Director Marc Setzer conducted during the performance. Mr. Setzer was also responsible for teaching the singing parts to the chorus and leads.

Jenni Williams, a junior, was the stage manager. Jenni's principal job was to be in charge of the cast and crew backstage. She also served as line prompter and principal "screamer", or cast disciplinarian. Assistant stage manager was Kara Norton. Chris Gordon, Adam Shields, and Jackie Dautel were the technical directors of the show, in charge of everything from building the sets to designing the lighting. Chris and Adam were also responsible for designing the set. Set artists were Katie Rankin and Ariel Urena. Charlene Yang served as props mistress for the show.

"I've been here seven days a week, including many sixteen hour days, but seeing the excitement on the faces of the "mini-munchkins", observing the amazing creativity of the designers and listening to the incredible orchestra has made it worthwhile," said Ms. Curl, summing up the experience of working on a musical.

## Second Nature plays for the love of music, displaying a style all their own.

By Laura King  
Staff Artist

Second Nature is an extremely successful band consisting entirely of talented South Meck musicians. It began as simply a side project for drummer Kevin Markie and guitarist Joe Benham in January of 1998; however, following various line-ups over a span of eight months, vocalist Chris Hathcock and bassist Zach Newhouse joined to create what is now the "juggernaut" of Second Nature.

The band promotes a drug-free lifestyle due to the fact that three of its members, Chris, Kevin, and Joe, are straight edge. However, Joe "The

Ewok" confirms that "this is a characteristic of all of us, although it is not what the band itself is about."

The band represents various elements from several types of metal, hard core, and emo music, and is known for its extremely heavy, melodic music and emotional, aggressive lyrics. In short, Second Nature displays a unique style of their own. Each of the band's members draw their individual style from personal role models. Their lyrics are strongly influenced by singer/poet Henry Rollins and the metal band Neurosis. Musically, their role models include Zao and Strongarm.

Second Nature is in the process of recording their first full-

length CD, which is entitled "The Missing Essence." If you are interested in owning a copy, you may talk to the band at one of their shows or e-mail them at [xsecondnature@hotmail.com](mailto:xsecondnature@hotmail.com). Second Nature already has numerous performances under their belt, including an appearance at Tremont Music Hall with the X-Periment and Learning and house shows with the likes of Hopesfall, Learning and Prayer for Cleansing.

In regards to a record deal, the musicians feel that due to their original sound and growing popularity, such an opportunity is well in their reach. For now, they are concentrating on polishing their first CD and benefiting from the positive impact

Second Nature has had on all of their lives. Vocalist Chris "The Beast" Hathcock speaks particularly highly of the influence Second Nature has had on his life. "Second Nature is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Here is a group of talented individuals who listen to what I say about a song and allow me to have total lyrical freedom. These guys have helped me so much with turmoil going on in my life." In regards to the impact Second Nature has had on his life, bassist Zach "The Energy Bomb" simply exclaims, "Yyyyyeeeeesssss!!!"

Visit Second Nature's website at <http://members.aol.com/str8edge76/page/index.htm>.

## The Arts in Charlotte

\* **THEATER CHARLOTTE** LIGHTS UP THE STAGE WITH "PRESENT LAUGHTER" ON FEB. 4 -20, THURS.-SAT. AT 8:00 PM AND 2:30 ON SUN. FEB. 21. (\$13-14) FOR INFORMATION: 343-9128

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\* **UNCC GALLERIES.** "IMAGES FROM NIGERIA" IS SHOWING THROUGH FEB. 21. HOURS: MON.-WED. & FRI. 10 AM-2 PM, THURS. 10 AM-5 PM. PHONE: 547-4479

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Information compiled by Larisa Yasinovskaya and Cat Traphagan



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# Faces in the Crowd

## Rebecca Williamson: A talented actress singing her way to success

By Cat Traphagan  
Staff Reporter

It is hard to describe Becca Williamson in just a few words. Not only is she a talented vocalist, she also is an excellent student and actress. Becca does not just strive for success; she achieves it.

At one time, Becca played the flute and piano. However, she gave them up in order to devote all of her time to her best instrument, her voice. Becca is involved in The Chamber Singers and the Women's Chamber Choir. "When I am performing, I get to go out of myself and be a different person. I get a natural high every time I go on stage," she said. Her voice and talent as an actress landed her the role of Glenda in the recent production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

At Carmel Presbyterian Church, Becca volunteers for the Breakfast of the Angels. She



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

**Name:** Becca Williamson  
**In CD Player:** Under the Table and Dreaming  
**Food:** "I just love food!"  
**Color:** Blue

has to wake up at four o'clock in the morning and prepare breakfast for twenty homeless men. That's not the hard part, though; she still has to be at school before the bell rings! Becca is headed to Jamaica on a missionary trip with her church. While there, she will repair houses and "mix a lot of cement!"

Becca summed up her goal for this school year in one statement: "I want to get through all my AP classes and still be sane." A proud survivor of many higher level courses, she is involved in US History AP, English AP, Chemistry AG and French III.

Three years at South have given Becca insight on herself and her life. "When I finally realized that one test grade wasn't going to determine my future, I started to relax. At least one respectable college will take me no matter what," she said.

*What would be the effects of a female president on the nation?*

"A female president would bring more voters to the polls and put more trust back into the government."

**Erik Sweeney, 12th**

"I do not believe that it would have any effect on our nation at all."

**Antonio Sowell, 9th**

"A female president would bring respect back to the office. It would have a positive effect and is a good idea."

**Lindsay Duckworth, 10th**

"I think a female president would have more issues to talk about that concern women at work or at home."

**Amanda Porter, 11th**

"I think that nothing would change except the country's popularity. A female president would get the attention of other nations."

**Tyler Auten, 9th**

"The sex of the president would not make that much of a difference; it is the personality that counts."

**Tory Geiger, 12th**

"I think that a woman would bring respect back to the office and have a different opinion on certain issues."

**Jessica Earnhardt, 9th**

"I think that females would be respected more than we are now."

**Antwanette Moore, 10th**

"Having a female president would do wonders for this nation. Females sometimes seem to have more common sense than men do."

**Sakiah Haines, 11th**

"It would bring something new to our government. A female president would probably approach problems in a different manner."

**Lisa Howell, 9th**

"I think a woman would be a wonderful leader because she could probably deal more practically with social matters."

**Erika Rubio, 11th**

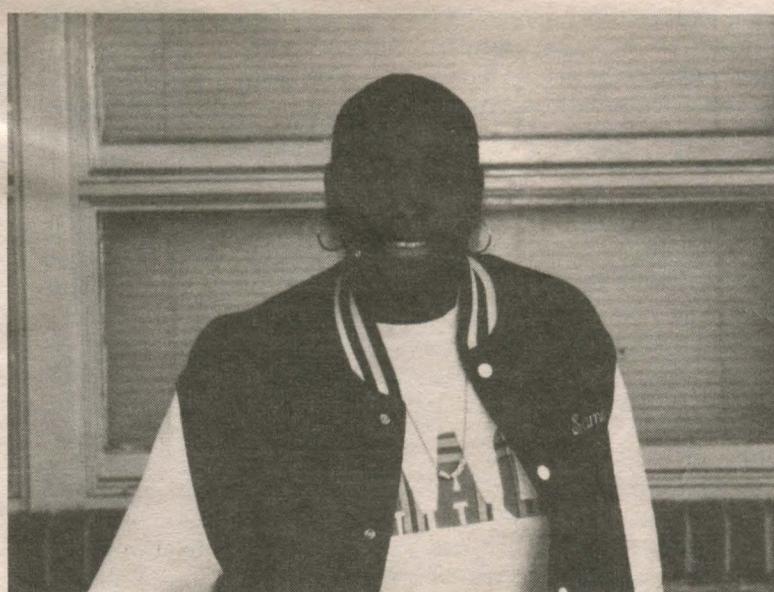
## Samone Williams: An involved student who knows how to have fun

By Natalie Smith  
Staff Reporter

Samone Williams is known by many as a talkative, fun-loving junior frequently seen about campus. She is also, however, one of the most talented, cultured, and involved students at South.

Samone is committed to numerous clubs and organizations at South, including SWV, NAACP, National Honor Society, Lettergirls, African Dance, Winter Guard, Wind Ensemble, Women's Chamber, and Junior Class Council. She also plays the flute for her church.

Amazingly, between juggling extracurricular activities and academics, Samone has enough time to devote to her passion—dance. Samone has been taking jazz, ballet, and tap dancing lessons for the past fourteen years and is an outstanding dancer. Among her in-



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

**Name:** Samone Williams  
**Flower:** White rose  
**Secret wish:** A motorcycle  
**Pet peeve:** Drivers who turn too slowly

spirations are tap dancer Savion Glover and her ballet teacher, Linda Muir.

Samone also gives credit for her success as an involved and talented student to her parents. "They have been big inspirations for me," she says. Samone's mother is a social worker and her commitment to being involved with other people has deeply impacted Samone.

In the future, this gifted Sabre hopes to attend Spelman College or UNC-Chapel Hill, and would like to pursue a career as a lawyer or judge.

When asked how she would describe herself, Samone says "I can be really crazy sometimes, but basically I'm just an average person who likes to have a good time and make new friends. For me, it's all about having fun and meeting new people. Hopefully by being myself, I'll help other people to have fun too."

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## The hardest working man in basketball

If you have watched a college basketball game in the past ten years, you know who Dick Vitale is. He has announced almost every major game for the past ten years including the annual Duke-Carolina matchup and Syracuse-UConn game. He is well known for his enthusiasm and love for college basketball and respect for the players in it.

However, he is the man that fans love to hate. They make light of his natural enthusiasm for the game and make fun of his appearance and broadcasting style. I, on the other hand like Dick Vitale and would like to ask every college basketball fan to kindly get off his back.

Fans see the bald head, the weathered face and attack him verbally as if he carries the plague. They don't see the man who has more than five stress related hernias due to low self-esteem. They don't see the man who had his left eye replaced with a glass one. A few years ago, *Sports Illustrated* published an article that portrayed Vitale as the kind-hearted man

J. T. Crook

### Sports Commentary

that he is. A man who sponsors countless charity events for young children and still goes home thinking that nobody likes him. However, in a recent edition, the magazine made light of his style by remarking that the only way that the NBA was better than the NCAA was that they didn't have Dick Vitale. They even had a special section that made fun of his vocabulary and use of superlatives. Although made in jest, comments like these are what has led him to feelings of self-doubt. They do not take into account the work he does to create that style.

Just think of his commentaries. The way he describes every intricate detail of a player's talent and ability, taking notice of everything from his ball-handling to his locker room role. The way he creates All-Star teams for the best defenders, or freshmen, or sixth men in college basketball. Also, think of his appearances on television. He covers games from the PAC-10 to the ACC to the Big East. He probably travels more than any other broadcaster in the nation.

Dick Vitale is arguably the hardest working man in college basketball. Even though you may not like his style on television, don't take it out on him. He is a good man and he is good at what he does. Even if you don't like him, you had better get over it because, "No doubt about it, baby," he is going to be around for a long time.

## Zelk receives Coach of the Year award New coach wins first championship at South

By Chris O'Connor  
Staff Reporter

South Meck cross country coach Brian Zelk was selected by the Charlotte Observer as the cross country Coach of the Year for Mecklenburg County. Zelk, in his first year at South, is also the head coach of both indoor and outdoor track.

This fall Zelk led the cross country team to their first conference championship in over twenty years. He gives the team a lot of the credit for his receiving the award. "These guys winning the conference is a reflection on me and winning this award is a reflection on them," he said. "It goes to show that if we all work together, we can accomplish anything, and that through hard work, good things will come," he said.

Zelk ran track and cross country in both high school and college, and was previously an assistant coach at McKinley High School in Ohio. As head track coach at Sedgefield Middle School in Charlotte, he led his team to a perfect record of 17-0 and the league championship. He is still competing in races and finished the Observer Marathon last year.

Zelk has reformed much of South's running program in the



Coach Zelk takes a moment to reflect on his team's progress during a recent track practice.

past few months in an effort to establish a winning tradition. So far, he has been successful in acquiring new uniforms and equipment for the team, and he is now trying to get South into some of the bigger and more prestigious meets. He is also bringing in a new assistant coach for track and organizing a summer running camp.

Coach Zelk's ultimate goal

for South is to win the North Carolina State Championship in both track and cross country. "One of my main goals was to coach at the high school level and build a solid cross country and track program," he said. Some day he would like to coach at the collegiate level and possibly be a math professor, but he plans on staying at South for some time.

## Lady Sabres are young but impressive

By J.T. Crook  
Sports Co-Editor

Lady Sabre basketball entered the 1999 season with much anticipation but also with a little uncertainty. With only two returning seniors, Coach Gaston did not know how his team would turn out. However, he is pleasantly surprised by his team which is currently at the number three spot in the conference. With a record of 17-5 the team has gone far past anybody's expectations, including the coach.

The team is led by Heather Sakaduski who is a returning All-Conference player. As a team leader, Heather runs the court. In the Homecoming

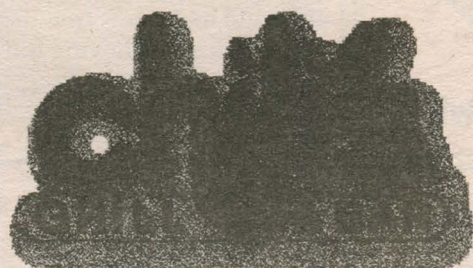
game against Providence, she seemed to be everywhere. Whether she was making a pass to an open teammate or creating a fast break, Sakaduski willed the team to victory in the last ten seconds of the game. Another outstanding player for the Lady Sabres is Teresa Harding who was All-Conference and All-County for the past two years.

Even with several outstanding players, the team is still young and somewhat inexperienced. Coach Gaston is confident that the team can still achieve a lot this season, even if they only gain experience. "We have a young team, just because we have two seniors, so we do not have a lot of floor experience, but as we keep playing,

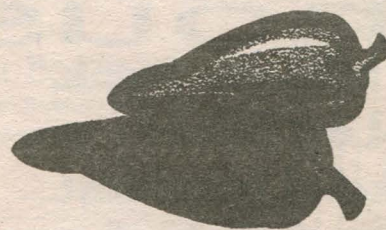
that problem will solve itself," Gaston said.

The team's goals this year are to do well in the conference and state playoffs, but also to gain experience and prepare for next year. Coach Gaston has prepared for this by running a deep roster to allow many players playing time and court experience.

The greatest move to ensure future success was the enlistment of three assistant coaches. These coaches add many new techniques to practice to teach the players more about the game. Coach Gaston has labled them as a definite strong point for their team and something that will lead to more victories down the road.



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### Spring Sports Schedule

#### Varsity Baseball

Mar.2	@ Olympic
Mar.4	@ C. Cabarrus
Mar.8	EAST GASTON
Mar.10	FOREST HILLS
Mar.11	@ Forest Hills
Mar.16	@ Providence
Mar.17	NORTH MECK
Mar.19	INDEPENDENCE
Mar.23	@ East Meck
Mar.25	OLYMPIC
Mar.26	BUTLER
Mar.30	MYERS PARK
Mar.31	N. DAVIDSON
Apr.1	GARINGER
Apr.6-8	Spring Break Tournament
Apr.13	@ W. Charlotte
Apr.14	@ Garinger
Apr.16	PROVIDENCE
Apr.20	@ Independence
Apr.21	W. CHARLOTTE
Apr.23	EAST MECK
Apr.27	@ Butler
Apr.29	@ Myers Park
May 3-7	Conference Tournament

#### Softball

Mar.8	Olympic
Mar.12	NORTH MECK
Mar.15	@ Providence
Mar.18	INDEPENDENCE
Mar.23	@ East Meck
Mar.25	BUTLER
Mar.29	MYERS PARK
Mar.31	GARINGER
Apr.13	@ W. Charlotte
Apr.14	@ Garinger
Apr.16	PROVIDENCE
Apr.19	@ Independence
Apr.21	W. CHARLOTTE
Apr.23	EAST MECK
Apr.26	@ Butler
Apr.29	@ Myers Park

#### Boys' Tennis

Mar.9	NORTH MECK
Mar.18	CONCORD
Mar.23	@ Garinger
Mar.25	W. CHARLOTTE
Mar.30	@ Providence
Apr.13	INDEPENDENCE
Apr.15	@ East Meck
Apr.20	BUTLER
Apr.22	MYERS PARK
Apr.26	Conference Tournament
May 4	Dual Team
May 14	Individual State
May 15,21	State Playoffs
May 22,23	State Championship

#### Girls' Soccer

Mar.6	Capital Jamboree
Mar.8	@ Olympic
Mar.10	HIGH POINT
Mar.12	@ Harding
Mar.15	@ West Meck
Mar.18	C. CATHOLIC
Mar.19	VANCE
Mar.23	@ Garinger
Mar.25	W. CHARLOTTE
Mar.30	@ Providence
Apr.1	INDEPENDENCE
Apr.13	@ East Meck
Apr.15	BUTLER
Apr.20	MYERS PARK
Apr.22	GARINGER
Apr.23	@ North Meck
Apr.27	@ W. Charlotte
Apr.29	PROVIDENCE
May 4	@ Independence
May 6	EAST MECK
May 11	@ Butler
May 13	@ Myers Park

#### Golf

Mar.8	GARINGER
Mar.15	W. CHARLOTTE
Mar.22	@ Providence
Mar.29	INDEPENDENCE
Apr.12	@ East Meck
Apr.19	BUTLER
Apr.26	@ Myers Park
May 3	Regionals

## Men's basketball finds stride as state playoffs near Sabres in third place in Southwestern 4A conference

By Nathan Morabito  
Sports Co-Editor

The South Mecklenburg men's basketball team has continued, as predicted, to have a successful season. The Sabres, who are 13-7 overall, and 8-4 in the conference, have played together as a team and have become one of the better teams in the Southwestern 4A conference. South Meck is currently in third place in the conference, behind number one West Charlotte and the second place East Meck Eagles.

Recently, the basketball team gained a victory at South's Homecoming by defeating Providence in a tough game, by a score of 55-50. After trailing at half-time, the Sabres were able to work together and win the game, finishing with four players scoring in double figures. These team members were Andy Gunn with 15 points, Montrice Stitt with 12 points, and both Hector Valenzuela and team captain Lorenzo Southern scoring 10 points each.



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Travis Feaster shoots over a Providence player at Homecoming.

South was also able to bounce back from a loss to Independence, to beat a strong East Mecklenburg by a score of 69-59. Earlier in the week, the Sabres lost a disappointing game to Independence by a

score of 53-50. Against the Eagles, South once again put four players in double figures, including Quavis Morgan with 16 points, and Montrice Stitt, Andy Gunn, and Lorenzo Southern with 11 points.

South Meck will finish out their season by playing Butler and Myers Park. Next comes the postseason, where Coach Clark is confident the team will succeed, saying, "Our number one goal this season was to make the State playoffs. Now that we have achieved that goal, each game will be played with winning as our number one priority. It is very realistic that we may contend for a sectional championship." The Sabres will play their first playoff game at home, ceded number three in the tournament, and will need as much support as possible.

## Sabres plan to dominate at state meet

By Nicole Ewing  
Business Manager

The South Meck men's and women's swim team proved to be a dominant force against their competition after 24 swimmers and divers qualified for the regional swim meet. Qualifying for regionals requires a swimmer to reach a set time standard. From there, the top finishers in each event will go onto the state swim meet on February 19-20 in Chapel Hill. The Sabres are looking to send a strong team to states to represent South.

On Thursday, February 4, the

team competed in the conference meet at the Mecklenburg Aquatic Club. The majority of the men's team swam personal best times and finished in an impressive third place behind Myers Park and Providence. The ladies placed fourth, just two points behind Butler, but plans to come out on top in regionals. Senior Captain Melanie Pfeifer has swum for four years and has had a very successful final season. "I am very proud of the team as a whole, and I'm impressed with how the team has come together over the past season," she said.

The Sabre diving team also did very well at their conference meet. Individually, the top finishers were Brett Emmerton and Whitney Rothrock, both placing third. With the help from the points earned from the divers, South hopes to finish in the top five at states.

"We might have a small team, but each person contributes to the total score and other teams cannot say that," said Coach Dave. The upcoming regional and state meet will allow the strongest teams to prove their strength, and the Sabres expect to be one of those top teams.

## Indoor track makes a run at states

By Chris O'Connor  
Staff Reporter

The indoor track team ended their season at the state meet in Greensboro last Saturday. The Sabres qualified their 4x400m team with Chris Gordon, Reggie Robinson, Dameko

Thorpe, and Derrik Smit and ran well at the state meet. Chris Gordon ran the 300m and was the only Sabre to qualify in an individual event. The 4x800m team also made it to the state tournament level.

The Lady Sabres had a strong season as well and finished strong in the state meet.

Kate Meier led the women by qualifying in both the 1600m and the 3200m. Adrian Barnette turned in the best performance for the Sabres as she jumped 5'4 to take third place in the high jump. The track team is now preparing for the outdoor season which will begin with a home meet on March 11.

### Associated Press Top 25 Poll

1.	Duke	23-1
2.	UConn	20-1
3.	Auburn	22-1
4.	Cincinnati	21-2
5.	Michigan St.	20-4
6.	Stanford	19-4
7.	Maryland	20-4
8.	Kentucky	19-6
9.	UCLA	17-5
10.	Arizona	16-4
11.	St. John's	18-6
12.	UNC	19-6
13.	Ohio St.	17-6
14.	Utah	18-4
15.	Wisconsin	19-5
16.	Miami	15-5
17.	Indiana	18-7
18.	Syracuse	16-7
19.	Iowa	15-6
20.	Charleston	21-2
21.	Purdue	16-7
22.	Minnesota	14-6
23.	Florida	16-5
24.	Kansas	16-6
25.	New Mexico	17-6

## Atlanta Falcons, a product of hype

The Denver Broncos win their second consecutive Super Bowl! This line may have been a surprise to many football fans, since Denver was the favorite to win, but everybody and their mother picked the Atlanta Falcons. During the 1999 playoffs, Atlanta should have been given the title of most overrated team.

Sure, the Falcons only lost two games all year, but it must be taken into consideration that Atlanta played in the weakest conference in the National Football League. First, let's begin with the Saint Louis Rams and the New Orleans Saints, two teams that are consistently weak. Now comes our very own Carolina Panthers, who only managed to win four games this season, and for the second year in a row the Panthers finished the season with a losing record. The San Francisco 49ers had their first lack-luster season in quite a few years, losing many key players due to injuries, which only helped the conference look worse.

One subplot created during the playoffs was the crowning

Nathan Morabito

### Sports Commentary

of the Falcons as the "good guys." This may have been due to a sympathy factor, since Coach Dan Reeves underwent bypass heart surgery. Although some of the credit for the game should go to the coach, the players wanted to win the Super Bowl for their own glory.

Although the Atlanta Falcons were able to make it to the Super Bowl, the minute the game ended, they were forgotten. Numerous victories have been the result of pure luck; for example, when they beat a Minnesota team who took the game for granted. The Vikings thought they would trample Atlanta and did not play up to their full potential.

Atlanta has lost and disappointed their fans by a weak performance in the Super Bowl. This has only injured the entire National Football League. Perhaps a better team will earn the right to represent the National Conference in next year's big game.

Come out and support all Sabre teams as they compete in their respective tournaments.

A message from the Booster Club.

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## Senior Mysteries



By Nicole Ewing  
Business Manager

This senior mystery does not follow the crowd. His creative left-wing politics tend to start many interesting class discussions. Being a well-spoken individual helps him excel on South's Mock Trial and High-Q teams. He is at the top of the Senior Class academically and is in BETA Club, National and Spanish Honor Societies, and Band. This senior is also well known for his popular hard-core/punk band "Learning." If you still don't have a clue who he is, this senior mystery plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill next year. Got any guesses? If not, check out Page 5.



By Laura King  
Staff Reporter

This bright-eyed, smiling senior is hard to miss on campus. She stands a little less than five feet tall with an abundance of long, curly dark hair. As a midfielder on the varsity soccer team, she takes advantage of her small size to dart around defenders for South. A transfer from Providence last year, this senior mystery had an all-conference performance for the Sabres. In the fall this senior plays select soccer for The Charlotte Soccer Club's blue team with fellow Sabres Hadley Trotter and Heather Sakaduski. If you still don't know who she is, turn to Page 5.

## Students broaden horizons through Internship Program

By Nicole Ewing  
Business Manager

What do you want to be when you grow up? If you are like most students, you probably have not had a chance to decide your future. That is what South's Academic Internship Program is for. It gives students hands-on experience in their own areas of academic interest by providing internship training at many Charlotte-Mecklenburg businesses.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools began the academic internship program in 1975 at West Charlotte High School. Due to the great success of the program, CMS later expanded it to all of the high schools, including South in 1978. Since then, hundreds of students have explored careers that they wish to pursue.

Internships are available for careers in medicine, radio/TV, journalism, architecture, engineering, and child development. No matter what a student's interest is, there is an internship provided for it. Over 450 business agencies and government offices participate. This includes every hospital, WBTV, WTVI, and The Charlotte Observer. The community is very supportive and appreciative of the help they get from the interns. Linda Stevens, the Internship coordinator, has received numerous calls from the businesses

complimenting the interns on the excellent work they did.

A very unique aspect about the Academic Internship Program is its Science-Research program. It is partnered with the area colleges and hospitals, and allows students to learn about specific areas of medicine by researching at a location of their interest. Senior Sarah Smith was very pleased with her experience at an area nursing home where she studied the reports. "I was grateful to have the opportunity to compile a report from patients labs which is something that most people do not get to do until college," she said.

Not only can a student intern individually, but there are also group internships available for those research areas that are of the large interest. The group interns at a different location within their field of study each week, which gives them a broader picture of the career. Individually, interns meet at their intern site twice a week after school until they reach their specified number of hours which varies from 45 hours to 180 hours.

If a student is unable to find time throughout the school year for an internship, the program continues into the summer months. This gives students more flexibility in scheduling their hours.

Students can enroll in the

program year-round, and the only requirement is that they must have completed second semester of their sophomore year and must provide their own transportation. For the more popular internships that quickly run out of spots, seniors receive priority. Applications can be obtained from the internship coordinator, Linda Stevens, in student services during lunch on Tuesdays.

Interns are not paid for their work, however, they do receive academic credit that is part of their high school transcript but does not affect their GPA. The amount of credit depends upon the number of hours that the intern completed, and the grade they received. Interns are graded based on an evaluation from the community sponsor, a journal which the student must record their experiences in, and an optional product. If a student drops their internship, they automatically receive an F.

It is very apparent that South's Academic Internship Program has been a great success. Internships give students a more realistic view of their career area, and helps them make decisions about their future. Mrs. Stevens is very pleased with how the program has turned out at South. "I have found students who participate are exceptional and seem interested and dedicated to do a great job," she said.

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## Outward Bound: More than just an adventure

You're covered in dirt. Your muscles scream for mercy. You share your bed with sticks and rocks. And you never felt better. Welcome to North Carolina Outward Bound School, where the path of most resistance is the only one to take.

### Unique Course Design

**SKILL BUILDING-** Learn more about yourself, your team and the outdoors. Develop skills in a variety of different areas, including outdoor activities, wilderness safety, communication and teamwork.

**EXPEDITION-** Apply new skills. As students begin to master skills, instructors gradually step back, and award the crew increased responsibilities.

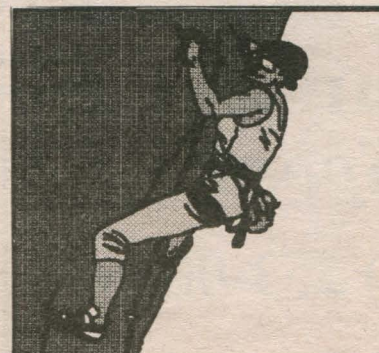
**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS-** Respect Mother Nature. We are all personally responsible for maintaining the health of the natural environment.

**SOLO-** Take time out of a busy world just to be. Solo is not a survival exercise, but rather an opportunity for students to reflect on their experiences, relax, and recharge.

**SERVICE-** Extend teamwork and compassion to the larger

community. Every Outward Bound course incorporates at least one day of service work. Projects include rebuilding rails, painting houses for local elderly residents, planting trees, teaching handicapped children to camp, serving in a soup kitchen and taking underprivileged teens rock climbing.

**PERSONAL CHALLENGE-** A challenge to yourself, not a competition with others. An Outward Bound course culminates in a personal challenge event—a run, paddle, or bike ride of sufficient length for a student to test his or her newly developed endurance and fitness.



"At Outward Bound I was given a backpack, a sleeping bag, a tarp, some dehydrated food, and little else, and asked to survive in the woods. It was the most independent and exhilarating experience of my life."

-Rachel Hockfield, Grade 12

"I learned to appreciate the outdoors, work in a team, and rely on myself in a difficult situation. Some things we did I enjoyed and some weren't that great, but in the end I came out a lot better person and I would definitely recommend Outward Bound to anybody who asked."

-James Wooten, Grade 11

"Outward Bound doesn't just teach you to do something; it forces you to. You are required to work with others, and if you don't know how, you will learn very quickly. You leave knowing the people from your group better than your brother or your best friend."

-Will Brown, Grade 11

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